

Motorcycle Safety

Californians love their motorcycles, both for scenic riding and commuting. There are nearly 900,000 registered motorcycles in the state, according to 2018 numbers from the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). With hundreds of thousands of riders using the same roadways as bicyclists, drivers and pedestrians, sharing the road is more important than ever.

Motorcycle deaths have been trending in the wrong direction in California over the past decade. In 2017, 576 people were killed in motorcycle crashes on California roads, a nearly 17 percent increase from 2015.

Controlling a motorcycle can be challenging, and takes balance, coordination and good judgment. Since motorcycle riders are out in the open, they do not have the same protections as drivers do, and are harder to see.

Motorcycle riders have the same rights and responsibilities as drivers do. Being more aware of one another and practicing safe behaviors on the road will help reduce the amount of crashes, injuries and deaths involving motorcycles.

The California Highway Patrol (CHP) offers motorcycle training courses statewide. To find a training center near you, visit chp.ca.gov and search "California Motorcyclist Training."



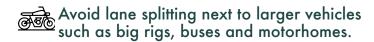


Lane splitting

Since 2017, lane splitting has been defined in the California Vehicle Code as driving a motorcycle between two rows of stopped or moving vehicles in the same lane.

While legal, drivers and riders should be extra careful and take a few factors into account when practicing lane splitting.











Drivers should give enough room for motorcycle riders to pass.











